

***Laudato Si'* Mysticism 1**

FRESH EYES FOR 2018

Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'* on Care for Our Common Home makes painful reading. It challenges us to change our flawed attitudes to Earth, and such change is hard. But behind the tough news is a *mysticism*, a faith-filled way of looking at Creation with ever-deeper love. Over the coming year we will explore this profound way of viewing creation. Then the pope's challenges to us will be charged with new urgency, because as we come to love our Earth more, we will be drawn to defend it better.

The Pope says, 'It is our humble conviction that the divine and the human meet in the slightest detail in the seamless garment of God's creation, in the last speck of dust of our planet' (9).

This faith-insight changes everything! We learn that every molecule of creation is sacred. See a plant, a bird, a carrot, a drop of water, a speck of dust in this way and you will begin to see the world as God sees it!

Keep coming back to this statement of Pope Francis. Take it in as best you can. Share your reflections with others and notice how your heart begins to soften with appreciation and concern for the small things of earth. God is the God of small things, so you meet God in them as well as in the Church, the sacraments, the Bible, the Christian community. This is what it means to be prayerful, to see all creation with eyes of wonder. Ask St Francis of Assisi or St Ignatius to share with you their way of seeing the world and finding God in everything!

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